

Oxford to Bernwood Forest where many of Denis's PhD students did their fieldwork. The service was attended by his family, close friends, colleagues from Oxford Brookes University and some of those past PhD students, including myself and Rachel Thomas, whom I first met at Oxford Polytechnic, as Oxford Brookes then was, and who later became my wife.

On the way into the service with Derek Whiteley, I found a dead moth lying on its back on the tarmac by the chapel door. I picked up the insect and was able to identify it immediately as Blair's Shoulder-knot *Lithophane leautieri* Bois. This, of course, was a moth which particularly interested Denis, who wrote a couple of papers on it and arranged for co-workers to investigate its recent colonisation of Britain. Derek Whiteley prepared a fine illustration of the moth, which adorned one of those papers. The original artwork hung on a wall in the "Poly" throughout my time there. The moth was recorded for the first time ever in Bernwood Forest during my PhD work in the mid-1980s. It is now well established and common in the Oxford area and no doubt its foodplant grows near the Crematorium chapel.

Before entering the service, I placed the moth in one of the flower arrangements. After the service I decided to retrieve the moth but failed to find it. If I were superstitious, I am sure I would regard the finding, and even the subsequent disappearance, of that particular moth, with all its associations, as a good omen. But this was all a matter of coincidence, wasn't it?

Rest in peace, Denis Owen. You will not be forgotten.

Paul Waring

### **Fletcher's Pug versus Pauper Pug *Eupithecia egenaria* H.-S. (Lep.: Geometridae)**

Reflection on the use of English names for British butterflies and moths is sparked by Bernard Skinner's thoughtful article (*Ent. Rec.* **108**: 284-285). Vernacular epithets are available for most taxa and eligible for general purposes, unfettered by the rules that apply to the latinised scientific names under the zoological code (International Code of Zoological Nomenclature). Their application is governed chiefly by suitability and a consensual theme with an awareness of the principle of priority. An English name, if consistently and logically applied, can be a useful surrogate if a scientific name, although always preferable, is difficult to call to mind or has been changed.

Indeed, many species have more than one common name. Species that are widely distributed geographically often accumulate an assortment, eg. the Scarce Bordered Straw *Heliothis armigera* Hb. (Noctuidae), which is an abundant agricultural pest found from Europe to Australasia, is also known as the Corn Earworm, Old World Bollworm, African Cotton Bollworm, the

Tomatoworm and, at one stage, erroneously as the American Bollworm. Conceivably, with global warming causing a stronger northerly drift, the "Scarce" element in the present British appellation may require emendation. Other such "Status" names at risk could be mentioned, and one wonders whether converse misnomers might arise among common species in decline, eg. the Common Clothes Moth *Tineola bisselliella* Hummel (Tineidae).

The scientific name *Eupithecia egenaria* appears in *An accentuated list of the British Lepidoptera* (1858: 25), and the derivation of the specific name is given as "poor, needy". So far as is known, early records of *egenaria* were due to misidentifications of Freyer's Pug *E. intricata* Zett. and the Golden-rod Pug *E. virgaureata* Doubl. Nevertheless, Heslop (1947, *Indexed Check-List of British Lepidoptera*) included the species as British and introduced the common name Pauper Pug. The species is, however, excluded from the revised version (1952-62, *Entomologist's Gazette* 10-13).

The first fully authenticated finding of *egenaria* as a resident species in Britain was in June 1962. Mere (1962, *Entomologist's Gazette* 13: 155-158) relates the sequence of events that led to its discovery and proposed the name Fletcher's Pug to commemorate the role played by Steve Fletcher of the Natural History Museum, who specialised in Geometridae and suggested searching for this species in the stands of Large-leaved Lime *Tilia platyphyllos* in the Wye Valley in Monmouthshire. Heslop's epithet Pauper Pug was used in the *Log Book* (Bradley & Fletcher, 1979) in deference to its seniority. But at my instigation it was replaced by Fletcher's Pug in the *indexed list* (Bradley & Fletcher, 1986). To me the appellation Pauper Pug is unuseful, the moth being no more pauperate than most of its congeners. On the other hand the commemorative name Fletcher's Pug has connotations of inspired field work and discovery; but perhaps I am not totally impartial since we were colleagues at the BM for half a century.— J.D. BRADLEY, Conifers, Chard Junction, Chard, Somerset TA20 4QJ.

### **The larva of *Hyles lineata livornica* Esper (Lep.: Sphingidae) in Shropshire**

On 26 July 1996 a single larva of *Hyles lineata livornica* was found on rosebay willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium* near Quatford, Shropshire (VC 40). In captivity the larva moulted once and was fed on rosebay until full-grown; although it started to construct a rather flimsy cocoon amongst dried leaves and sand, it failed to pupate and perished on 11 August, possibly from a viral infection. The capture site was an open clearing with coniferous woodland on the National Trust Estate at Dudmaston (grid reference SO746897), where the hostplant was abundant over disturbed ground following recent tree felling operations. Despite further searches on 26 July and again the following week, no further larvae were located.—A.P. FOSTER, 23 The Dawneys, Crudwell, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 9HE.